

ST. LOUIS POS

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GOEBBELS PLEA TO U. S., BRITAIN TO SOFTEN PEACE TERMS REPORTED

OWI Quotes Him as Saying Happiness of Nations Must Not Be Achieved at Expense of Other People.

SIGNS OF MAJOR CRISIS IN REICH, SWISS RADIO SAYS; CONFIDENCE FADING

LONDON, July 14 (AP).—**B**ELIEF that a "major crisis" may be developing in Germany was expressed by a Swiss military commentator today in a broadcast.

"Confidence is dwindling and nervousness is growing in the German camp," he said. "Hitler's headquarters moving steadily west, Von Rundstedt's dismissal, a new paroxysm reached in the persecution of the Jews—these are typical elements of a major crisis."

NEW YORK, July 14 (AP).—The Office of War Information said today that German Propaganda Minister Goebbels "has launched an implicit appeal to the United States and Britain to soften their demands for unconditional surrender."

Quoting a broadcast recorded by the Federal Communications Commission, OWI said the German DNE agency gave this paraphrase of an article by Goebbels in Das Reich:

"He said that all nations, for the time after the war, are longing for quiet and relaxation, national progress, far-reaching social reform, economic prosperity and undisturbed happiness. All this, however, must be achieved not at the expense of happiness of other people, but must be secured out of their strength. The Germans, in fact, have never wished for anything else but what the people throughout the world, belligerents and non-belligerents alike, are expecting from peace today in the fifth year of war."

Goebbels contended Germany had never "proclaimed the same program of extermination and destruction as our enemies," and OWI said his appeal for a softer attitude by the Allies was contained in passages in which he discussed the Versailles Treaty and declared that the world was "an organic structure in which every big power has to fulfill its special task."

By implication, Germany was included as one of the powers with a "special task" to perform.

"20 Years of Chaos."

DNE quoted Goebbels as writing:

"We know that the attempt made by the Versailles treaty to cripple Germany's national vitality has thrown into 20 years of chaos not only the Reich, but the whole of Europe and even the whole world until there was no other way out of the misery but a new world war. Unfortunately, our enemies have failed to learn a lesson from the blunders they have made."

"On the contrary, our enemies today believe that they can avoid the inevitable consequences by accentuating their old methods. Germany's cause today is the cause of civilized mankind. In no phase of this war have we proclaimed the same program of extermination and destruction as our enemies."

"The world today is an organic structure in which every big power has to fulfill its special task and duties and any attempt to make this structure collapse at one point is tantamount to creating the danger of dissolution of human society on the whole."

OWI said Goebbels couched "this tacit plea for a softer attitude toward Nazi Germany with a repetition of his well-worn propaganda on the 'Bolshevik menace.'"

He claimed that Germany, which began hostilities by invading Poland in 1939, "would have attained" the aims of "quiet and relaxation, national progress, far-reaching social reform, economic prosperity and undisturbed happiness" without going to war, had it not been "forced" into the struggle.

"As things are today," Goebbels wrote, "the Anglo-Saxons—even assuming for the sake of argument that military events were going to take the most favorable turn for the Allies this summer—could not possibly have any other war aims but, by Germany's destruction, to pave the way for Bolshevism in the whole of Europe. We are firmly convinced that we shall be able to avert the danger threatening from Bolshevism to European countries."

"What, however, would the British and the Americans have to gain if we were not to succeed in doing so? Germany in that case would, willingly or unwillingly, bring the most cruel revenge on those who are really guilty of Europe's misery. Those who believe they will be victorious automatically would be drawn into the maelstrom of an outbreak of general chaos."